In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 51. Please amend claims 26, 28, 30-32, 61, and 67. Please add new claims 70-73. The claims are as follows:

1- 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising[[:]] a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code ~~configured to~~ <u>when executed by a computer, enables the computer to</u>:

obtain a first business process data from at least one first trading participant, said first business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a first data format in accordance with a first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant;

process said first business process data at a process management platform accessible via an interconnection fabric, wherein said process management platform is configured to manage the flow of said transaction messages and monitor said transaction messages, wherein said process management platform is configured to automatically determine at least one of a plurality of second trading participants to satisfy said first business process data;

identify a second protocol for conducting said business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants;

generate a second business process data from said first business process data, the second

business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a data format in

accordance with said identified second protocol; and

transmit said second business process data from said process management platform to

said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants such that said first and second

trading participants conduct said business transactions in accordance with their respective

protocols for conducting business transactions, wherein said process management platform is

configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 <u>wherein to obtain the first</u>

<u>business process data comprises to obtain the first business process data by the process</u>

<u>management platform at a process gateway, and</u> wherein said process gateway interfaces with at

least one legacy system of one or both of said at least one first trading participant and said at least

one of said plurality of second trading participants.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said process

management platform broadcasts said first business process data to said plurality of second

trading participants, said process management platform being further configured to utilize at least

one open protocol that defines a business process.

30. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify, by the process management platform, said first business process data to conform said first business process data to a uniform format.

31. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said processing further comprises:

archiving, by the process management platform, said first business process data in a storage medium.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide, by the process management platform, said archived first business process data to an entity for non-repudiation purposes.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises at least one partner interface process.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said at least one first trading participant comprises an entity utilizing said first business process data.

38-41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a plurality of distributed systems.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a business process interface associated with said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second participants.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

    computer readable program code configured to provide said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants access to a business process interface.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface is provided via a web browser.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the transmission of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the formatting of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

48 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52 - 60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code is configured to identify, by the process management platform, said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is further comprises computer readable program code configured to determine whether said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is other than said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is other than said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the second protocol differs from the first protocol, wherein the transaction messages comprise an unencrypted header and encrypted payload data compatible with the first data format, and wherein the computer readable program code is configured to decrypt the encrypted payload data and subsequently re-encrypt the decrypted payload data according to the data format in accordance with said identified second protocol.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 64, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

determine that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners;

modify the header, including strip unneeded information from the header and alter content of the header; and

digitally sign the modified header.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

receive acknowledgment of receipt of the second business process data by the at least one of said plurality of second training participants; and

transmit the received acknowledgment to the first trading participant.

67. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ said computer readable program code configured to apply logic to the first business process data to perform a service for the first trading participant, said service including generating the second business process data as differing from the first business process data.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 67,

wherein the at least one of said plurality of second trading participants comprises at least two second trading participants of said plurality of second trading participants;

wherein the second business process data is an offer of a trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and a satisfactory second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants;

wherein the service is a service of negotiating said trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant;

wherein said computer readable program code is configured to sequentially transmit said second business process data to each second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants and to subsequently receive a reply from each respective second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants before transmitting said second business process data to a next second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants; and

wherein upon receiving a satisfactory reply from a last second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants, said computer readable program code is configured to send confirmation to the first trading participant that said trading participation agreement has been successfully negotiated between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant, said satisfactory second trading participant consisting of said last second trading participant.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code comprises a virtual trading participant, wherein the virtual trading participant is configured to receive fictitious business process data from the first trading participant and to both acknowledge the fictitious business process data and reply to the first trading participant that the fictitious business process data has been acknowledged in order to enable the first trading participant to determine that the first trading participant is prepared to automatically transmit the first business data to complete said business transactions.

70. (New) The computer program product of claim 69,

wherein the computer readable program code is configured to test operational

characteristics and a connectivity of a currently trading participant connected to the process

management platform, by utilizing the virtual trading participant to determine if the data defining

individual business processes is in a uniform format understood by the process management

platform;

wherein the computer readable program code is configured to utilize the virtual trading

participant to ensure compatibility with an identified version of the uniform format;

wherein the virtual trading participant provides a mechanism for generating test reports

and determining if the process management platform is configured to archive and/or store

information about business process data sent through the process management platform;

wherein the process management platform provides a directory of business processes such

that the virtual trading participant enables trading participants to review and/test an ability to

access the directory and obtain data about the business processes a particular trading participant is

configured to perform;

wherein the virtual trading participant provides a feedback mechanism for determining if a

particular trading participant is ready to send, receive, and perform other operations on business

process data.

71. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein to obtain the first business process

data comprises to obtain the first business process data by the process management platform,

wherein to identify the second protocol comprises to identify the second protocol by the process

management platform, and wherein to generate the second business process data comprises to generate the second business process data by the process management platform.

72. (New) The computer program product of claim 65, wherein to determine that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners comprises to determine, by the process management platform, that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners, wherein to modify the header, and wherein to modify the header comprises to modify the header by the process management platform.

73. (New) The computer program product of claim 66, wherein to receive acknowledgment comprises to receive acknowledgment by the process management platform, and wherein to transmit the received acknowledgment comprises to transmit, by the process management platform, the received acknowledgment.